

IN THE APPLICATION

OF

Marilyn Sadallah

FOR

Decorative Trash Receptacle System

FILED WITH

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING CERTIFICATE
Express Mail mailing label number: ER 353 878 969 US
Date of Deposit 09 February 2004
I hereby certify that this paper or file is being deposited with
the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to
Addressee" under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is
addressed to "Mail Stop Patent Applications, Commissioner
for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450".

Michael L. Kroll
Attorney for Applicant

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to receptacles and, more specifically, to an indoor/outdoor decorative trash receptacle system that allows a user to decorate or personalize a trash receptacle or the like with permanent or interchangeable graphic images or insignia. The system of the present invention provides means to decorate a receptacle in various forms including applying a graphic image directly on the receptacle, applying a covering to the receptacle, and inserting a placard into a sleeve affixed to the receptacle. The decorating system of the present invention provides means to improve the appearance of an area by decorating a trash receptacle in an image that may blend into the background or provide information such as user name, address or provide personal greetings or depict other graphic images. The graphic image can be applied directly to the external wall of the trash receptacle using free form, stencil tracing, stamping or other painting techniques. This technique can also be produced onto an adhesive backed vinyl placard or like material and then adhered to the exterior of the trash receptacle. Another system of the present invention utilizes a clear protective sleeve that is affixed to the exterior of the receptacle. A placard with a graphic image is inserted into the clear sleeve providing an artistic impression on the receptacle. The placard is easily removed from the sleeve and replaced with other placards to allow various designs to be displayed.

Description of the Prior Art

There are other decorative devices designed as receptacles. Typical of these is U.S. Patent No. Des.104,059 issued to Bensel on April 13, 1937.

Another patent was issued to Hayden on February 4, 1941 as U.S. Patent No. Des.124,958. Yet another U.S. Patent No. Des.182,376 was issued to Moslo on March 25, 1958 and still yet another was issued on May 27, 1969 to Warnberg as U.S. Patent No. Des.214,288.

Another patent was issued to Kracke on February 22, 1983 as U.S. Patent No. Des.268,059. Yet another U.S. Patent No. Des.329,514 was issued to Isaac on September 15, 1992. Another was issued to Isaac on September 15, 1992 as U.S. Patent No. Des.329,515 and still yet another was issued on October 24, 1995 to Dimanche as U.S. Patent No. Des.363,583.

Another patent was issued to Creske on June 2, 1998 as U.S. Patent No. Des. 394,930. Yet another U.S. Patent No. 1,421,628 was issued to Watkins on July 4, 1922. Another was issued to VanWinkle on November 3, 1942 as U.S. Patent No. 2,300,473.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 104,059

Inventor: Duryea Bensel

Issued: April 13, 1937

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for a box or similar container as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 124,958

Inventor: Samuel Hayden

Issued: Des. 124,958

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for an ice container or similar article as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 182,376

Inventor: Ernest P. Moslo

Issued: Des. 182,376

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for a tumbler or similar article as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 214,288

Inventor: Archie E. Warnberg

Issued: May 27, 1969

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for a waste basket cover or similar article as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 269,059

Inventor: Donald R. Kracke

Issued: February 22, 1983

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for a waste basket cover or similar article as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 329,514

Inventor: Mimi Isaac

Issued: September 15, 1992

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for a refuse container cover or similar article as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 329,515

Inventor: Mimi Isaac

Issued: September 15, 1992

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for a waste basket cover or similar article as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 363,583

Inventor: Marlene G. Dimanche

Issued: October 24, 1995

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for a trash can decorator or similar article as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number Des. 394,930

Inventor: Edward J. Creske

Issued: June 2, 1998

This United States Patent discloses an ornamental design for a waste basket cover or similar article as illustrated and described in the drawings of the patent.

U.S. Patent Number 1,421,628

Inventor: Dwight E. Watkins

Issued: July 4, 1922

A basket comprising a supporting frame, the sides thereof being formed of spaced rods, a waterproof receptacle detachably mounted within said frame and having the upper marginal edge thereof extending upwardly of the tops of said frame rods, a substantially U-shaped ring member adapted for detachable disposition over the upper marginal edge of said receptacle to overlap the same adjacent the tops of said frame rods, said ring member having transversely spaced apertures therein, and flexible fastening members for engaging through the apertures in said ring member and about said frame rods for detachably holding said ring member in assembled relation upon the frame and receptacle of said basket.

U.S. Patent Number 2,300,473

Inventor: William R. Van Winkle

Issued: November 3, 1942

An ornamental container arrangement including a sheet of corrugated paper board suitably joined end to end for tubular formation and content envelopment, said board having at least a liner layer interiorly of a corrugated layer, the corrugated layer being slit transverse to the axis of the tubular formation, the slit defined end portion of said layer and the liner portion secured thereto being turned inwardly at the slit portion, the liner layer at the slit constituting the hinge connection only, the inturned portion of the corrugated layer forming a retaining shoulder of appreciable width within the tubular formation and at the side wall thereof when adjacent liner portions are in contact, the opposite end of the board having its inner liner extended beyond the adjacent edge of the corrugated layer forming a tubular end extension therefor.

While these receptacles may be suitable for the purposes for which they were designed, they would not be as suitable for the purposes of the present invention, as hereinafter described.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention discloses an indoor-outdoor decorative trash receptacle system that allows a user to decorate or personalize a trash receptacle or the like with permanent or interchangeable graphic images or insignia. The system provides means to decorate a receptacle in various forms including applying a graphic image directly onto the receptacle, applying a covering to the receptacle, and inserting a placard into a sleeve affixed to the receptacle. The decorating system of the present invention provides means to improve the appearance of an area by decorating a trash receptacle in an image that may blend into the background or provide information such as user name, address or provide personal greetings or depict other graphic images. The graphic image can be applied directly to the external wall of the trash receptacle using free form, stencil tracing, stamping or other painting techniques. This technique can also be produced onto an adhesive backed vinyl placard or like material and then adhered to the exterior of the trash receptacle. Another system of the present invention utilizes a clear protective sleeve that is affixed to the exterior of the receptacle. A placard with a graphic image is inserted into the clear sleeve providing an artistic impression on the receptacle. The placard is easily removed from the sleeve and replaced with other placards to allow various designs to be displayed.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide means for decorating an indoor/outdoor trash receptacle.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative trash receptacle comprised

of indicia on the exterior surface of said trash receptacle.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative trash receptacle having an image on the exterior surface of said trash receptacle.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative element for encompassing the exterior surface of said pail.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative element for the exterior of a trash receptacle comprised of an image conforming substantially to the surrounding of said receptacle.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative element wherein said decorative element has a protective element placed thereover.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative element wherein said protective element form an envelope for the insertion therein of the decorative element.

Additional objects of the present invention will appear as the description proceeds.

The present invention overcomes the shortcomings of the prior art by providing a decorative trash receptacle system that allows a user to decorate or personalize a trash receptacle or the like with

permanent or interchangeable graphic images or insignia. The system of the present invention provides means to decorate a receptacle in various forms including applying a graphic image directly on the receptacle, applying a covering to the receptacle, and inserting a placard into a sleeve affixed to the receptacle. The decorating system of the present invention provides means to improve the appearance of an area by decorating a trash receptacle in an image that may blend into the background or provide information such as user name, address or provide personal greetings or depict other graphic images. The graphic image can be applied directly to the external wall of the trash receptacle using free form, stencil tracing, stamping or other painting techniques. This technique can also be produced onto an adhesive backed vinyl placard or like material and then adhered to the exterior of the trash receptacle. Another system of the present invention utilizes a clear protective sleeve that is affixed to the exterior of the receptacle. A placard with a graphic image is inserted into the clear sleeve providing an artistic impression on the receptacle. The placard is easily removed from the sleeve and replaced with other placards to allow various designs to be displayed.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages will appear from the description to follow. In the description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. These embodiments will be described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, and it is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that structural changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. In the accompanying drawings, like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views.

The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the present invention is best defined by the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In order that the invention may be more fully understood, it will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the present invention shown is the present invention decorative trash receptacle system.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the present invention in use.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the present invention in use.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the present invention in use.

Figure 6 is A perspective view of the present invention in use.

Figure 7 is an exploded isometric view of the present.

Figure 8 is a sectional view of the present invention sleeve assembly.

Figure 9 is a top view of the present invention top cap channel.

Figure 10 is a sectional view of the present invention top cap channel.

Figure 11 is a top view of the present invention clear protective sleeve.

Figure 12 is a sectional view of the present invention clear protective sleeve.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

With regard to reference numerals used, the following numbering is used throughout the drawings.

- 10 present invention
- 12 decorated trash receptacle
- 14 image
- 16 conventional trash receptacle
- 18 background image
- 20 wall
- 22 cover
- 24 adhesive
- 26 sleeve
- 28 placard
- 30 top cap
- 32 gasket
- 34 inner wall
- 36 outer wall
- 38 sleeve channel
- 40 apertures
- 42 handles

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The following discussion describes in detail one embodiment of the invention (and several variations of that embodiment). This discussion should not be construed, however, as limiting the invention to those particular embodiments since practitioners skilled in the art will recognize numerous other embodiments as well. For a definition of the complete scope of the invention, the reader is directed to the appended claims.

Turning to Figure 1, shown therein is a perspective view of the present invention 10. Shown is the present invention 10 comprising a decorative trash receptacle system for indoor and outdoor use. The system allows a user to decorate or personalize a trash receptacle 12 or the like with permanent or interchangeable graphic images 14 or insignia. The system of the present invention 10 provides means to decorate a receptacle in various forms including applying a graphic image 14 directly on the receptacle 12, applying a covering to the receptacle, and inserting a placard in a sleeve affixed to the receptacle.

Turning to Figure 2, shown therein is a perspective view of the present invention 10 in use. Shown is the present invention 10 comprising a decorative trash receptacle and a standard trash receptacle 16 for indoor and outdoor use. The receptacle 12 utilizing the decorating system is made obscure by applying a covering of the scenic background 18 whereas the standard receptacle 16 is highly visible and unsightly. The decorating system of the present invention 10 provides means to improve the appearance of an area by decorating a trash receptacle 12 in an image that blends into

the background 18.

Turning to Figure 3, shown therein is a block diagram of the present invention. The system of the present invention provides means to decorate a receptacle in various forms including applying a graphic image directly on the receptacle, applying a covering to the receptacle, and inserting a placard in a sleeve affixed to the receptacle. The graphic image can be used to provide information such as user name or address, provide personal greetings, or depict other graphic images.

Turning to Figure 4, shown therein is a perspective view of the present invention 10 in use. Depicted in Figure 4 is an informative graphic image 14 of the users name and address on a trash receptacle 12. The graphic image 14 is applied directly to the external wall 20 of trash receptacle 12. The image 14 may be applied using free form, stencil tracing, stamping, or other painting technique.

Turning to Figure 5, shown therein is a perspective view of the present invention 10 in use. Depicted in Figure 5 is a graphic image covering 22 of the user's preference being affixed to a trash receptacle 12. The graphic image 14 is painted or printed onto an adhesive backed 24 vinyl placard or like material and then adhered to the exterior of the trash receptacle. The graphic image covering 22 creates an artistic impression on the receptacle 12.

Turning to Figure 6, shown therein is a perspective view of the present invention 10 in use. Depicted in Figure 6 is the decorative trash receptacle system of the present invention 10 utilizing a clear protective sleeve 26 that is affixed to the exterior of the receptacle 12. A placard 28 with a

graphic image 14 is inserted into the clear sleeve 26 providing an artistic impression on the receptacle 12. The placard 28 is easily removed from the sleeve 26 and replaced with other placards to allow various designs to be displayed.

Turning to Figure 7, shown t herein is an exploded isometric view of the present invention 10. Depicted in Figure 7 is the indoor/outdoor decorative trash receptacle system of the present invention 10 utilizing a clear protective sleeve 26 that is affixed to the exterior of the receptacle 12. The clear sleeve 26 is fitted over the receptacle 12 with the open end facing the top of the receptacle and the placard 28 with a graphic image thereon is inserted into the open end of clear sleeve and positioned to cover the receptacle exterior walls 20. Lastly, a top cap channel 30 or fitting is press-fitted over the top lip of the receptacle 12 and sleeve 26 securing the placard 28 and providing a watertight seal. Both the sleeve 26 and the placard 28 have apertures 40 for receiving the handles 42 of receptacle.

Turning to Figure 8, shown therein is a sectional view of the present invention sleeve assembly. Depicted in Figure 8 is the indoor/outdoor decorative trash receptacle system of the present invention utilizing a clear protective sleeve 26 that is affixed to the exterior wall 20 of the of the receptacle 12. The clear sleeve 26 is fitted over the receptacle 12 with the open end facing the top of the receptacle and the placard 28 with a graphic image thereon is inserted into the open end of clear sleeve and positioned to cover the receptacle exterior walls 20. A top cap channel 30 is press-fitted over the top lip of the receptacle 12 and sleeve 26 to secure and protect the placard 28.

Turning to Figure 9, shown therein is a top view of the present invention top cap channel or fitting 30. Depicted in Figure 9 is the present invention's decorative trash receptacle top cap channel 30. The top cap channel 30 with inner gasket 32 is press-fitted over the top lip of the receptacle and sleeve to secure and protect the placard from water and other elements. The top cap channel 30 is removed to access the placard for removal and/or replacement.

Turning to Figure 10, shown therein is a sectional view of the present invention top cap channel 30. Depicted in Figure 10 is the present invention's indoor/outdoor decorative trash receptacle top cap channel 30. The top cap 30 is a U-shaped channel that is press fitted over the top lip of the receptacle and sleeve to secure the placard. The top cap 30 includes gasket material 32 on the inner walls of the channel to further protect and secure the interior when pressed onto the receptacle and sleeve.

Turning to Figure 11, shown therein is a top view of the present invention with clear protective sleeve 26. Depicted in Figure 11 is the present invention's indoor/outdoor decorative trash receptacle clear protective sleeve 26. The sleeve 26 contains an inner wall 34 and outer wall 36 interconnected at one end creating a "U" channel 38 for inserting the placard. The sleeve 26 may be of various shapes and include apertures to accommodate the receptacle profile, lifting handles or other features.

Turning to Figure 12, shown therein is a sectional view of the present invention with clear protective sleeve 26. Depicted in Figure 12 is the present invention's indoor/outdoor decorative

trash receptacle clear protective sleeve 26. The sleeve 26 is fitted over the side walls of the receptacle with the open end of the sleeve facing up. The sleeve 26 contains an inner wall 34 and outer wall 36 interconnected at one end creating a U-channel 38 for inserting the placard.